MS. A.21.5. 88

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Rev. Amos A. Phelps
Farmington,
Conn.

If Mr. Phelps is not at Farmington, the writer wishes this letter forwarded to him immediately.

Board bof for
Sarah Porter
at
Miss Mosley

A word as to the importance of carrying this State as effectually, & as early as possible. We don't know to what a pitch of frenzy our non-slave-holding States may be driven. They may pass laws to gag us, — or, at ~~all events~~ least, may adopt such regulations as will embarrass our printing Establishment in N. York. How important then that there be one State open to free discussion, from which we may thunder down upon the north & south. At all events, it is important that we have one State which we can call our own: it will be a rallying point: — a beacon light — a safe harbor, — a citadel in the enemy's country. Rhode Island is easier carried now, than any other State. Our principles have got hold in every town, & a strong hold in many. Some of the leading political men of both parties are thoroughly with us. Again. This is the first State that has moved in regard to legislation to put down free discussion. At the last session of our legislature, resolutions from a town meeting recommending the passage of laws to put down anti slavery societies, were presented & referred to a committee, all of whom are hostile to us. That committee is to report at the next meeting of the legislature, which occurs in Providence at the same time in all probability at which our convention will meet. We want to have the people at our Convention, to look their servants in the face when they pass laws to gag them. A large, very large Convention, held at that time, will stifle the gag law at its birth. — & then Rhode Island may, by her

Example, save her sister States,
from the infamy & sin of fettering
their own heels to aid their Slave

holders to fetter those of his victims. Again. Rhode Island is the summer resort of thousands of Southerners. Newport & other towns are thronged with them. Let us make the moral atmosphere so hot, that next Summer, it will melt or consume them. Now for a bargain. If you dear brother, will come & help me four weeks in R.I. I will aid you an equal number of weeks in Connecticut — & more if you say so. You will think it hard for you to leave home perhaps this cold weather. But, remember it is only four weeks: & you will not be far from home. You can bring your wife to Providence if you & she think it best. I cannot express what I feel in regard to the importance of pressing things to a focus in this State now. It is the very harvest time. Where are the reapers? I think it well to unite our forces, just previous & to the holding our conventions. We can do more together, than seperately, at such times. We pray into each others hands. — All our friends here, correspond with me in these views. The latter is written partly at their suggestion. Let me hear from you immediately — whether you come or not. I can't bear the idea that you should say no. Love to you very kind wife. Write to me here, care John Prentice, from [illegible] as ever

H. B. Stanton

I wish you more especially to aid in bringing in delegates to the Convention from places already with us, & thus increase the number of members. There are many points which must be visited during the month of January, or the strength of the Convention will be materially diminished. Some of those points must be neglected unless I can have your aid. The success we anticipate, will depend, under Providence, upon thoroughly arousing all these places, & bringing their entire weight into the Convention. There are some Congregational Churches & ministers in this State, that would be brought over to us if they could hear a lecture or two from a Congregational Minister like you, but which are now either opposed to us, or are neither cold nor hot. In a word dear brother, you could do a great amount of good here in four weeks previous to the holding of our Convention. Having been all over the ground, I cannot be mistaken on this point. I know there are some places which only want a lecture "by authority" from a Congregational minister, to bring over the whole mass to us. They are now just ready to launch, & only need some one like you to knock away the fastenings. In other places, you will have to sink your Congregational peculiarities,!— but, Congregational labor in a few places in R.I. will remove some large obstacles.

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H. B. Stanton

Providence Dcer. 18. 1835

Dear brother Phelps. I have been anxious to see you for some weeks, & was in hopes that I should, when I heard you was in Boston. But, I must content myself with talking with you by my pen. You know we are laboring to get up a State Convention to form a State Anti S. society for R. Island. The time for holding it is February 2d. We have a call now circulating in the State, to which there are already appended between 500 & 600 names. It will be signed from every town in the State. We wish to have a convention that shall correspond with, & nobly respond to, such a call. If we can obtain 750 names to the call, & can assemble a Convention corresponding to such a demand, the staggering blow is given to the pro-slavery spirit in Rhode Island— the cause is triumphant & the State is redeemed. I don't mean by this, that no labor will need to be expended upon the State after the organization of our State society,— but that, if the Society is organized under the circumstances indicated above, the monster is staggered, & we have only to go forward to the slaughter. To secure such a Convention, it is necessary that some one should aid me about four weeks previously to its sittings. You are the very man to engage in this work. There are some important points which I wish you to attack in company with me,— & they are points which it will be important to carry previous to the Convention.